DOCKET NO.: MSFT-2789/303543.01

Application No.: 10/723,824

Office Action Dated: May 13, 2008

PATENT

REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED

PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO

37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 17-20 are pending. No claims have been amended. The claims have been finally rejected. Claims 1, 8, 13, and 18 are independent. As described below, each of the independent claims 1, 8, 13, and 18 (and therefore all of the claims) are patentable over Vaidyanathan et al. in view of Gasser.

Paragraph 2 of the office action states that claims 5, 11, 12, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,467,081 (Vaidyanathan et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,636,250 (Gasser). From the discussion in the office action, Applicant reads this rejection as referring to all claims.

As the Office Action recognizes, "Vaidyanathan et al. does not explicitly disclose wherein an expansion widget indicator of at least one sub-item value" (e.g., Office Action at 3). According to the Office Action, Gasser (at Figure 2 for example) discloses the claimed expansion widget and renders the claims obvious in view of Vaidyanathan et al. (e.g., id.). Applicants respectfully disagree that Gasser cures the deficiencies of Vaidyanathan et al. Gasser merely discloses a hierarchical structure of files at Figure 2. Gasser does not disclose different windows. Nor does Gasser disclose different windows having an expansion widget indicator of at least one sub-item having a different window. Thus, there is nothing in Gasser to suggest using a different window for an expansion widget, much less one having the characteristics as recited in the "responding to a pointer request" clause. Accordingly, as all of the limitations of claim 1 are not found within the references, the claims are patentable over them.

Independent claims 8, 13, and 18 contain similar limitations and are therefore patentable as well.

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